Population of Sarus Crane

2170. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of Sarus Crane, the tallest of the flying birds, in Gujarat;

(b) what is their population in the State as a percentage of world population;

(c) whether their population is fast dwindling, as per various census report;

(d) whether the bird is listed as endangered specie in the schedule of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and

(e) if not, whether Government are making any review to change the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the latest survey carried out in 2001 by Gujarat Ecological Education Research Foundation, Gandhinagar, the estimated number of Sarus Cranes in the State is about 1403. Estimated number of Indian Sarus Cranes in the world is about 8000-10000. Thus existing Sarus Crane population in Gujarat is about 15.5% of the world population.

(c) There has been a decline over the years in the population of Sarus Cranes.

(d) Sarus Crane is listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(e) As the species enjoys protection against hunting all over the country, there is no need to transfer it to any other Schedule.

Restoration of Dal Lake

2171. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided required grant for restoration of the past glory of the world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar;

(b) if so, the works identified by Government to be done for the ailing and shrinking lake;

(c) how much grant has been released or is to be released for the purpose and what is the likely time frame within which the work would be completed; and

(d) how much portion of the lake has been completed for operational activities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A project proposal on the conservation of Dal and Nagin Lakes has been prepared in consultation with the State Government and J and K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority at an estimated cost of Rs.162.87 crore. The major components of the project proposal are: catchment management plan to minimise the silt input to the untreated lake, construction of sewerage and sewage treatment plants to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into the lake, municipal solid waste management, restoration and development works, infrastructure facilities, hydraulic works for improvement of water circulation of the lake and public participation and awareness. A time frame of 3 years has been indicated in the proposal to complete the project. The proposal has been sent to the State Government on 14.11.2000. The Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs.102.42 crore as additional central assistance through the annual plan outlay of Jammu and Kashmir for the conservation of Dal and Nagin Lakes during the period from 1997-98 to 2001-02. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 87.42 crore has already been released to the State Government. Out of the amount of Rs.87.42 crore, Rs. 63.18 crore has been utilized till October, 2000 by the J and K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority for monitoring and management of water quality and lake ecology, community participation and public awareness, infrastructure development, improvement works, redevelopment of floating gardens, deweeding, dredging etc. The physical implementation of the conservation plan prepared by Government at a cost of Rs. 162.87 crore has not yet begun.